

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02

SCI-06 STR-08 INT-08 AGR-20 IO-14 AF-10 NEA-10 CU-04

HEW-08 DRC-01 /221 W

----- 002825

R 022030Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3651

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS KINGSTON 0010

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ENRG, JM

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE - "A TIME TO SOW"

1. SUMMARY: THE PRIME MINISTER PAINTS A GLOOMY PICTURE OF 1974 AND OUTLINES GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO COPE WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS. HE STRESSES THIRD WORLD COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING A TWO-TIER PRICE SYSTEM FOR PETROLEUM. AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO PICTURE 1973 AS A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS DEC 30 MESSAGE TO THE NATION A SOMBER PRIME MINISTER MANLEY SPELLED OUT IN THE SIMPLEST TERMS WHAT THE ENERGY CRISIS WOULD MEAN FOR JAMAICA IN 1974 AND THE MEASURES THE GOVT WAS TAKING TO COPE WITH IT. NOTING THAT THE SUPPLY REPEAT SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM WOULD NOT PRESENT A PROBLEM, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT PRICE WOULD. THE 1974 FUEL BILL FOR JAMAICA WOULD INCREASE THREE-FOLD OVER 1973, FROM SOME J\$50 MILLION TO J\$150 MILLION. HE POINTED OUT THAT JAMAICA EARNED ONLY J\$400 MILLIION FROM EXPORTS AND TOURISM IN 1972 AND THAT THE J\$100 MILLION INCREASE IN THE

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FUEL BILL FOR 1974 WOULD BE THE EQUIVALENT OF THE TOTAL EARNINGS

FROM TOURISM IN 1973.

3. HAVING STATED THE CHALLENGE, THE PM WENT ON TO OUTLINE HOW THE GOVT INTENDED TO DOPE OVER THE SHORT RUN. AMONG THE POINTS MENTIONED WERE:

- A. AN IMMEDIATE 25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE PRODUCTION OF GAS-OLINE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION;
- B. IMPLEMENTATION OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME FROM JAN 6;
- C. THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY ON THE PRICES RECEIVED FOR BAUXITE , ALUMINA, SUGAR AND BANANAS;
- D. A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE AIMED AT SECURING SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ON PETROLEUM PRICES FOR THE LDCS;?
- E. THE PRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT ON JAN 15 OF A PACKAGE OF ECONOMIC PROPOSALS TO DEAL WITH THE INCREASED FUEL BILL.

4. MANLEY STATED THAT THE SEPT ALGIERS CONFERENCE HAD LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR LDC COOPERATION ON VARIOUS MATTER AND THAT JAMAICA HAD CALLED FOR A MEETING OF THE SPECIAL STEERING COMMITTEE SET UP AT THAT TIME TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A TWO-TIER PRICE ARRANGEMENT. HE STRESSED THIRD WORLD UNITY IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE OAS AND CARICOM IN ACHIEVING LDC OBJECTIVES IN THE FUEL CRISIS.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER ENDED HIS SPEECH WITH A LISTING OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 1973. AMONG THOSE CITED WERE FREE SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL QUALIFIED STUDENTS, THE EXTENSION OF JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, THE FIRST PHASE OF NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE, THE NEW PROPERTY TAX, AND AGRICULTURAL REFORMS.

6. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER'S THEME - * TIME TO SOW - WAS RESPONDED TO SYMPATHETICALLY BY THE TW DAILY NEWS*APERS WHICH URGED JAMAICANS TO SETTLE DOWN TO WORK AND CONSUME LESS* *HE SPEECH EVEN MET *WITH SOME SYMPATHY FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION WHO STATED IN HIS YEAR-END MESSAGE THAT NOT ALL OF JAMAICA'S PROBLEMS WERE THE FAULT OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.
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